

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

Paul D. FRANKE declares:

I am a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the City of Venetia, County of Washington, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, whose post-office address is 106 Springbrooke Drive, Venetia, Pennsylvania 15367.

I verily believe myself to be the original, first and sole inventor of the improvement in "METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR CONDUCTING A PLURALITY OF CYBER-BASED CONVENTIONS" described and claimed in the annexed specification.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims.

That this application in part discloses and claims subject matter disclosed in my earlier filed pending United States Provisional Application Serial No. 60/114,128, filed December 30, 1998, United States Provisional Patent Application Serial No. 60/114,396 filed December 31, 1998 and International Application No. PCT/US99/31285, filed December 30, 1999.

That, as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof; or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to said earlier application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to said earlier application.

That said common subject matter has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate before the date of said earlier application in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to said earlier application.

That the first filed application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention set forth in said earlier application filed by me or my legal representatives or assignees in any country foreign to the United States is: none.

That, as to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof; or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention thereof or more than one year prior to the date of this application, or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of this application.

That said subject matter of this application which is not common to said earlier application has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the date of this application.

That the first filed application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention first set forth in this application filed by me or my representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States is: none.

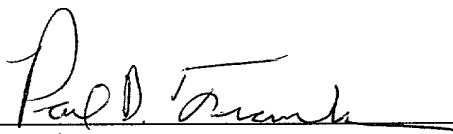
I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a) including matters as occurred between the filing date of my said earlier application and the filing date of this application.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint Russell D. Orkin, Registration No. 25,363; William H. Logsdon, Registration No. 22,132; David C. Hanson, Registration No. 23,024; Richard L. Byrne, Registration No. 28,498; Frederick B. Ziesenheim, Registration No. 19,438; Kent E. Baldauf, Registration No. 25,826; Barbara E. Johnson, Registration No. 31,198; Paul M. Reznick, Registration No. 33,059; John W. McIlvaine, Registration No. 34,219; Blynn L. Shideler, Registration No. 35,034; Julie W. Meder, Registration No. 36,216; Lester N. Fortney, Registration No. 38,141; Randall A. Notzen, Registration No. 36,882; James G. Porcelli, Registration No. 33,757; and Kent E. Baldauf, Jr., Registration No. 36,082, Christian E. Schuster, Registration No. 43,908; Dean E. Geibel, Registration No. 42,570; Thomas J. Clinton, Registration No. 40,561, Nathan J. Prepelka, Registration No. 43,016; Jessica M. Sosenko, Registration No. 47,102; Kirk M. Miles, Registration No. 37,891; and J. Matthew Pritchard, Registration No. 46,228, whose post-office address is 700 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818, Telephone No. 412-471-8815, my attorneys with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to amend the specification, to appeal in case of rejection, as they may deem advisable, to receive the patent when granted and generally to do all matters and things needful in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as I could do.

**All correspondence and telephone calls should be addressed to Russell D. Orkin.**

I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration and power of attorney this 28<sup>TH</sup> day of FEBRUARY, 2001.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul D. Franke

[illegible]

I hereby declare that I am

I hereby declare that the above identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.12, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees to the United States Patent and Trademark Office, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

  X   the specification filed herewith.  
      application serial no. \_\_\_\_\_, filed \_\_\_\_\_.  
      patent no. \_\_\_\_\_, issued \_\_\_\_\_.

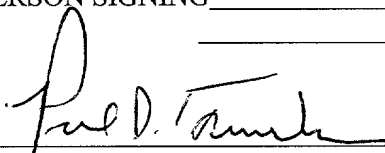
If the rights held by the above identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below\* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d), or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e). \*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights to the invention averring to their status as small entities. (37 CFR 1.27)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL      \_\_\_\_\_ SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN      \_\_\_\_\_ NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

I acknowledge the duty to file, in this application or patent, notification of any change in status resulting in loss of entitlement to small entity status prior to paying, or at the time of paying, the earliest of the issue fee or any maintenance fee due after the date on which status as a small entity is no longer appropriate. (37 CFR 1.28(b))

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application, any patent issuing thereon, or any patent to which this verified statement is directed.

NAME OF PERSON SIGNING Paul D. Franke  
TITLE OF PERSON IF OTHER THAN OWNER President  
ADDRESS OF PERSON SIGNING 1035 Boyce Road, Suite 2000  
Pittsburgh, PA 15241

SIGNATURE  DATE 2-28-01